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News of Members in the Services

After duty in the Atlantic Area, JOHN L. WOLFF, JR., is now a Cadet Midshipman at the Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York. A letter dated November 20, 1943, to Mrs. H. H. Bahlis, Lafayette, describes land birds seen far offshore after a storm:

"The first day out of New York I saw a goldfinch flying around the ship. The next day, the second day out and 200 miles offshore, I saw many Slate-colored Juncos, one Starling, three White-throated Sparrows, one shrike, two warblers (two species, unidentified), two Eastern Bluebirds, and one Red-breasted Nuthatch. The Third Mate told me that he saw a goose fly by and a hawk land on one of the king posts. Severe storms along the coast had probably blown the birds out to sea. I put out three pans of water and threw out all kinds of food. On the high seas was one place I never expected to have a bird feeding station! The next day the birds began to die. Many died during the night. Dead birds were all over the decks. I picked up the nuthatch and am going to have it mounted."

MARINE LIEUT. DAVID G. NICHOLS is an Air Combat Intelligence Officer. He recently arrived in San Diego where he is awaiting assignment. He writes:

"Once, at the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, Rhode Island, I noticed a Commander of the Royal Navy standing stock-still and staring at the WAVE Barracks. I was surprised to see him there until I noticed that he was not actually looking at the dormitories but at a Horned Lark which was running across the lawn in front of the buildings. I waited for the bird to fly, and then went over and

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Club Calendar

MEETING—June 8, 7:30 p.m., Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library. Larkin and McAllister Streets. Mr. Albert Kwasky will speak on "Birds of America that Stop at Iowa", discussing the migratory bird protection program of the Federal and State governments in the Mississippi River States.

FIELD TRIP FOR JUNIORS—June 10, morning trip to John Garber Park and grounds of Claremont Hotel, Miss Clelia A. Paroni and Mrs. Ethel Richardson, leaders. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at Russell and Domingo Streets, Berkeley.

FIELD TRIP—June 11, Ross. Take 8:40 Greyhound bus from 7th and Mission Streets, San Francisco. Bring lunch.

TENTATIVE TRIPS—July 16, Golden Gate Park; August 13, Diamond Park Oakland.

Birds, Voles, and Victory Gardens

A gardener who finds his vegetables eaten *in situ* should consider the vole, or meadow mouse, as the possible culprit. Dr. James C. DeVoss of San Jose State College writes in the *Palo Alto Times*, May 11, 1944, that in his garden quails and other birds have been exonerated.

Dr. DeVoss began to doubt the complaints of neighbors that birds were to blame for damage to their gardens when lettuce heads in his garden were eaten, even though they had been carefully covered with screens of small mesh, left tilted slightly on one side. Dr. DeVoss then set mouse and rat traps around the edges of the lath house by the side of the lettuce bed and caught five voles during the next day. Later trapping of several other voles freed his garden of pests.

Voles may be active during the day. They feed voraciously on field crops, vegetables, and fruit as it drops from trees. The first choice of these animals for a home is a woodpile or lumber pile, and Dr. DeVoss noticed that neighbors who were most troubled had large woodpiles.

The vole is larger and stockier than the house mouse. For that reason Dr. DeVoss found the spring type rat trap best, although the smaller mouse traps are needed to catch the young. The most successful bait proved to be fresh peaches. Ordinary mouse and rat baits are ignored. Preferably the traps should be set along the runways constructed by the mice through the grass.

Dr. DeVoss concludes: "From this experience I am making the venture that many predacious charges against our birds have been made by this little rogue. I also suggest that though we are plagued by stray cats, and birds' nests are constantly broken up, cats do not seem to be very successful in catching voles."



Linnet Evictees

Facing a housing shortage a pair of linnets discovered a woodpecker hole in the week-end cottage of Arthur Blake, two miles east of Walnut Creek. On the night of April 29th the birds found their entrance boarded over. Their attempts to enter the building the next morning were equally unsuccessful.

Hours later the owner of the disputed property looked up at his hat hanging on the wall. There inside his hat he saw a finished linnet nest. In it were two delicate blue eggs, stone-cold.

NEWS OF MEMBERS (Continued from page 21)

introduced myself to him. He was very much surprised to find a Marine on the base who knew what the bird was he had been watching. We struck up an immediate friendship on the basis of the introduction by *Otocoris alpestris*. He told me that there is a good deal of interest in bird life among the officers of the Royal Navy who have long cruises at sea with little else in their environment to fasten their attention."

May Field Trip

Cloud patterns lay somberly on the hills of Vale View Ranch, Lafayette, when Audubon members met there Sunday, the 14th. But along the wooded creek banks, despite clouds and later heavy showers, bird life abounded. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Maurer offered the lovely vales of their ranch for a birding ground; and when showers became too heavy, refuge was found in the old and spacious barn on the lower acres. Later, the group rested at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davies in Reliez Valley. At noon they congregated at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Zinke for coffee. An afternoon trip planned along Springbook Road had to be abandoned because of heavy rain.

Although only a short morning's observation was possible, thirty-six species were identified:

Black-crowned Night Heron, Turkey Vulture, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, California Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Western Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Slender-billed Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick Wren, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Lutescent Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, English Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Song Sparrow.

Fifteen members and nine guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. Myer, Mr. and Mrs. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Kilham; Misses Chandler, Elwonger, Fay, Hamm. Paroni, Sterne, Strong, Young; Mesdames Austin, Dickman, Kelly, Zinke; Messrs. Fekula, Kwasky, McGuckin, Nelson, Shatto.

—Gertrude Zinke, Leader and Historian.



Junior Trip

The May field trip for Juniors was taken to the University of California campus Saturday morning, May 13th. The weather was warm and slightly hazy, with no wind. The group met at Center and Oxford Streets, Berkeley, and hiked to the opposite end of the campus beyond the Greek Theatre. The leaders were Miss Clelia A. Paroni and Mrs. Ethel Richardson.

One of the high lights of the trip was a visit to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in the Life Sciences Building, where Mrs. Richardson showed us skins of birds that have been seen on the campus. Later, Bob Sicular, Lee Talbot, and Paul Altrocchi discovered the nest of a Sparrow Hawk among the nests of a colony of Cliff Swallows on the south side of the Life Sciences building. A swallow's nest had been remodeled to fit the needs of the Sparrow Hawk.

Twenty-six species were observed: Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Dove, Anna Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Western Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, California Jay, Plain Titmouse, Bush-Tit, Robin, Russet-backed Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Pileolated Warbler, Brewer Black-

bird, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Green-backed Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Junco, Nuttall Sparrow, Song Sparrow. The Slender-billed Nuthatch was heard.

Junior members and guests on this trip were: Clare Bingham, Helen Coxhead, Martha Curtis, Nancy Duffield, Joanne Lowry, Marjory McGinnis, Paul Altrocchi, Jack Heyneman, Lee Talbot, and Bob Sicular.

—Helen Coxhead, Historian.

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, April 29, El Sobrante, Contra Costa County, Walter W. Bradley.

Lazuli Bunting, May 20, 217 Upper Terrace, San Francisco, Marie Millard.

Two pairs of Bullock Orioles and nests, April 29, two miles east of Walnut Creek, Harold Kirker.

Long-tailed Chat, May 2, Alameda, Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton.

Calaveras Warbler, April 27-29; Screech Owl, May 1-2, Lyon Street, San Francisco. Ash-throated Flycatcher, April 22, Napa, Joseph J. Webb.

Spotted Sandpiper, April 22; Yellow Warbler, April 27; 2 Ash-throated Flycatchers, Hooded Oriole, April 28; Black Turnstone, Avocet, April 29; Hermit Thrush, last date, May 2; Western Tanager, May 3; 2 Greater Yellow-legs, Long-billed Curlew, May 5, Alameda. Ruddy Turnstone, 2 Wandering Tattlers, May 7, Cliff House, San Francisco, Junea W. Kelly.

New Members

Miss Clare Bingham, 27 Tamalpais Road, Berkeley 8. (Junior).

Miss Margaret Milwain, 731 Alma Avenue, Oakland.

May Meeting

Mr. Donald D. McLean, Economic Biologist of the California Division of Fish and Game was the speaker Thursday evening, May 11, at the regular meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific. His subject "Problems of Color Photography of some California Birds" included colored motion pictures of birds of the Imperial Valley, the Golden Eagle, and particularly fine pictures of Pygmy, Long-eared, Horned, Screech, Saw-whet, and Barn Owls. Whether the expressions captured by the camera were those of the wisdom traditionally ascribed to owls or merely a frustrated desire to get some sleep is uncertain. Such pictures cannot fail to create a sympathetic interest in these birds. President Arthur H. Myer presided at this, the 320th meeting, which was held in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Public Library.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....	25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....	Miss Ruth Elwonger.....	2121 Rose Street, Berkeley 7

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer